

Message Text

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TO USINT ALGIERS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 087746

TOSEC 44, S/S FOR ATHERTON

FOLLOWING TEHRAN 3368 ACTION SECSTATE APR 29TH.

QUOTE:

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 3368

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, IR

SUBJECT: MASSIVE IRANIAN MINISTERIAL SHAKESPEARE

SUMMARY: IN LARGEST MINISTERIAL-LEVEL SHAKESPEARE IN OVER A DECADE
GOVT OF IRAN ON APRIL 27 ANNOUNCED DEPARTURE FROM CABINET OF
EIGHT MINISTERS, APPOINTMENT OF TEN NEW MINISTERS, RESHUFFLING
OF RESPONSIBILITIES OF THREE OTHERS, AND CREATION OR AMALGAMATION
OF EIGHT NEW MINISTRIES. THIS MOVE REPORTEDLY FOLLOWS FREEHAND
GIVEN PRIMIN HOVEYDA BY SHAH TO ENABLE GOVERNMENT TO BETTER CONTROL
TWIN PROBLEMS OF INFLATION AND SHORTAGES AND APPEARS TO SHOW THAT
REGIME IS PREPARING TO MOVE FURTHER TOWARD ESTABLISHMENT OF WELFARE
STATE. SEVERAL CHANGES ARE RESULT OF PERSONAL RIVALRIES AND SHIFTING
POWER RELATIONSHIPS, BUT IN GENERAL THE REORGANIZATION IS CONSISTENT
WITH HOVEYDA'S PRACTICE OF STAFFING GOVERNMENT POSITIONS TO EXTENT
POSSIBLE WITH HIS OWN MEN. COMING AS IT DOES AT TIME OF GROWING
DOMESTIC ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES, CABINET REORGANIZATION MAY INDICATE
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THAT PRIMIN HAS PUT HIS PRESTIGE AND PERHAPS HIS FUTURE ON

THE LINE.END SUMMARY

1. AS ANNOUNCED APRIL 27, CABINET-LEVEL CHANGES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

A. NEWLY APPOINTED MINISTERS:

MINISTER OF HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING HOMAYUN JABER-ANSARI
MINISTER OF EDUCATION AHMAD HUSHANG SHARIFI
MINISTER OF POST, TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH KARIM MOTAMED
MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND TOURISM GHOLAM REZA KIANPUR
MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND HIGHER EDUCATION ABDOL HOSSEIN SAMI'I
MINISTER OF COOPERATIVE AND RURAL AFFAIRS REZA SADAQIANI
MINISTER OF SOCIAL WELFARE SHOJAEDIN SHAIKHOLESLAMIZADEH
MINISTER OF COMMERCE FEREIDUN MAHDADI
MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND MINES FARROKH NAJMBADI
MINISTER OF STATE EZATOLLAH YAZDANPUANSH

B. NEW MINISTRIES CREATED OR COMBINED FROM OLD MINISTRIES:

MINISTRY OF ECONOMICS AND FINANCE
MINISTRY OF INTERIOR AND CIVIL SERVICE AFFAIRS
MINISTRY OF ENERGY
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL WELFARE
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND TOURISM
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE
MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND MINES
MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING

C. THUS NEW CABINET LOOKS LIKE THIS(NOT IN ORDER OF PRECEDENCE):

PRIME MINISTER AMIR ABBAS HOVEYDA
MINISTER OF ECONOMICS AND FINANCE HUSHANG ANSAR
FOREIGN MINISTER ABBAS ALI KHALATBARI
MINISTER OF INTERIOR AND CIVIL SERVICE AFFAIRS JAMSHID AMUZEGAR
MINISTER OF LABOR QASSEM MOINI
WAR MIINISTER GEN REZA AZMIM
MINISTER OF ARTS AND CULTURE MEHRDAD PAHLBOD
MINISTER OF ROADS JAVAD SHAHRESTANI
MINISTER OF JUSTICE SADEQ AHMADI
MINISTER OF ENERGY IRAJ VAHIDI
MINISTER OF HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING HOMAYUN JABER ANSARI
MINISTER OF EDUCATION AHMAD HUSHENG SHARIFI
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MINISTER OF POST, TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH KARIM MOTAMED
MINISTER OF INFORMATIONAND TOURISM GHOLAM REZA KIANPUR
MINISTER OF HEALTH ANUSHIRAVAN PUYAN
MINITER OF SCIENCE AND HIGHER EDUCATION ABDOL HOSSEIN SAMI'I
MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES MANSUR ROUHANI
MINISTER OF COOPERATIVE AND RURAL AFFAIRS REZA SADAQIANI
MINISTER OF SOCIAL WELFARE SHOJAEDDIN SHAIKHOLESLAMIZADEH
MINISTER COMMERCE FEREIDUN MAHDADI

MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND MINES FARROKH NAJMAKABADI

MINISTERS OF STATE HADI MEDAYATI

MANUCHEHR LALALI

EZATOLLAH YAZDANPANA

SAFI ASFIA

MINISTER OF STATE AND DIRECTOR OF THE PLAN AND BUDGET

ORGANIZATION ABDOL MAJID MAJIDI

2. COMMENT: A. ACCORDING MINCOURT OFFICIAL, HOVEYDA WAS GIVEN
FREER HAND BY HIM ABOUT TWO MONTHS AGO TO DEAL WITH WIDESPREAD
AND INCREASINGLY SERIOUS PROBLEMS OF INFLATION AND SHORTAGES OF
FOOD AND SUCH BUILDING MATERIALS AS CEMENT. PRIMIN REPUTEDLY
STATED THAT CONTROL OF THESE PROBLEMS WOULD REQUIRE EXTENSIVE
MINISTERIAL CHANGES AND SHAH AGREED IN ADVANCE THAT CHANGES
COULD BE MADE. MOST SIGNIFICANT FACETS OF RESHUFFLE FROM POINT
OF VIEW OF POLICY ARE IN FIELD OF ECONOMICS AND RELATED AREA OF
WELFARE. CONSOLIDATION OF KEY MINISTRIES OF ECONOMY AND
FINANCE AND AN IMPERIAL STATEMENT THAT NEW MINISTRIES OF
COMMERCE AND OF MINES AND INDUSTRY MUST COORDINATE POLICIES
THROUGH MINISTRY OF ECONOMICS AND FINANCE GIVES NEW ECONFIN
MINISTER USHANG ANSAR NEAR COMPLETE CONTROL OF GOI'S
ECONOMIC/FINANCIAL MECHANISM. NEW MINISTRY OF ENEGY WILL HAVE
OVERALL RESPONSIBILITY FOR DEALING WITH OIL, GAS, THERMAL AND
ATOMIC POWER, AND OTHER SOURCES OF ENERGY, ALTHOUGH EXISTING
ORGNIZATIONS SUCH AS NIOC WILL CONTINUE TO FUNCTION. SOME
REPONSIBILITIES CONNECTED WITH WATER RESOURCES WILL BE TRANS-
FERRED TO THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE. DIVISION OF JURISDICTIONAL
AUTHORITY WILL BECOME CLEARER WHEN REORGANIZATION BILL IS SUB-
ITED TO PARLIAMENT INNEAR FUTURE. ONLY OTHER WHOLLY NEW
MINISTRIES CREATED, SOCIAL WELFARE, AND HOUSING AND TOWN
PLANNING, APPEAR INTENDED TO PROVIDE GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE TO
CARRY OUT FUTURE WELFARE PROGRAMS TO WHICH SHAH RECENTLY ALLUDED,
SUGGESTING THAT, WITH ITS NEWWEALTH, IRAN WOULD SOON BE EQUAL OF
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SWEDEN IN TERMS OF GOVERNMENT-PROVIDED SOCIAL SERVICES.

B. SEVERAL SHIFTS APPEAR TO BE RESULT OF PERSONALIZED POWER
STRUGGLES WHICH PERMEATE IRANIAN POLITICAL SYSTEM. MOST SIGNIFICANT
OF THESE HAS APPARENTLY RESULTED IN DOWNGRADING OF FORMER MINFIN
JAMSHID AMUZEGAR, A POWERFUL FIXTURE IN THE CABINET AND CON-
SIDERED FOR OVER A DECASE A POSSIBLE FUTURE PRIMIN. SOME
OBSERVERS SPECULATE THAT AMUZEGAR WAS GIVEN MIN INTERIOR POSITION
BECAUSE IT WILL BE INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT DURING FORTHCOMING
PERIOD WHEN SOME GOVERNMENTAL AUTHORITY IS SCHEDULED TO BE
DECENTRALIZED AND 1975 ELECTIONS MUST BE ORGANIZED. MOST,
HOWEVERN CONCEDE HE HAS BEEN GIVEN A LESS IMPORTANT JOB
AND WOULD APPEAR TO HAVE LESS RESPONSIBILITIES THAN
HERETOFORE. SUPPLANTING HIM IS HUSHANG ANSARY WHO,

IN GAINING CONTROL OF BULK OF GOI ECONOMIC MACHINERY, HAS
EVIDENTLY DEMONSTRATED THAT HE HAS OVERCOME RUMORED PAST DIFFI-
CULTIES WITH HOVEYDA.

C. A SIMILAR RIVALRY INVOLVES THE ROUHANI-VLAIAN STRUGGLE FOR
CONTROL OF IRAN'S AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT. ROUHANI'S APARENT
VICTORY MAY EVENTUALLY RESULT INCREASED GOI EMPHASIS ON AGRO-
BUSINESS AS A SOLUTION TO IRAN'S AGRICULTURAL DIFFICULTIES, RATHER
THAN VALIAN'S PREFERRED RURAL COOPERATIVE APPROACH. ROUHANI'S
SURVIVAL IN THE CABINET AT A TIME WHEN HIS MINISTRY IS WIDELY
BELIEVED TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CURRENT MEAT SHORTAGE DEMON-
STRATES HIS CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH HOVEYDA. THE PRIMIN, IN
SUPPORTING ROUHANI IN FACE OF CONSIDERABLE POPULAR DISCONTENT,
HAS SOWN HIS STRENGTH AND INFLUENCE WITH SHAH WHILE AT SAME TIME
LEAVING ANOTHER CARD, ROUHANI'S CONTINUANCE IN OFFICE, TO BE
PLAYED IF THE GOI REMAINS UNABLE TO CONTROL INFLATION AND SHORTAGES.

D. IT APPEARS THAT ALL NEW APPOINTEES WITH POSSIBLE EXCEPTION OF
KIANPUR AND YAZDANPANA ARE PERSONALLY BEHOLDEN TO HOVEYDA IN ONE
WAY OR ANOTHER. IMPORTANT THING AT THIS STAGE IS THAT HOVEYDA
HAS FOLLOWED TRADITIONAL PERSIAN PRACTICE OF STRENGTHENING
HIS OWN POSITION BY OPTING FOR LOYALTY AT LEAST AS MUCH A
ABILITY IN CHOOSING HIS NEW MINISTERS. HOWEVER, AMONG HIS
ELEVEN NEW FACES NINE ARE FOREIGN-EDUCATED (FOUR IN THE US)
AND ALL CAN CALL ON PAST EXPERIENCE IN GOVERNMENT OR PRO-
FESSIONAL FIELDS RELATED TO THEIR NEW RESPONSIBILTIES. PRIMIN
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MAY FIND THAT HE HAS NEED OF BOTH THEIR EXPERTISE AND THEIR
LOYALTY AS, IN PROMISING THE SHAH THAT HE COULD CONTROL DOMESTIC
ECONOMIC MATTERS IF GIVEN A FREE HAND, IT WOULD APPEAR THAT
HOVEYDA HAS LAID HIS PRESTIGE AND PERHAPS HIS JOB ON THE LINE.
INTERESTINGTO NOTE IS THAT THIS MINISTERIAL REORGANIZATION HAS
RESULTED IN SOMEWHAT MORE CONCENTRATED GOVERNMENTAL POWER IN
HANDS OF PRIME MINISTER. BASICALLY, HOWEVER, WE WOULD EXPECT
MAJOR POLICY DECISIONS TO CONTINUE TO BE MADE BY THE SHAH AND
THAT FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC POLICY WILL MOVE ALONG WELL- ESTABLISHED
LINES.

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